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tion as being in good standing, who have agreed to assist us when called upon. Since some of the applicants at our office are considered to be able to pay an attorney's fee the attorneys on this list are permitted to charge small fees in proper cases, subject always to the approval of this office in case any question should arise. I believe that this branch of our work has resulted in a great deal of benefit to the community. Any persons in the county can now secure assistance in civil cases before the court in any kind of a case even though entirely unable to pay the fees of an attorney. During the period covered by this report our office referred to the attorneys on this list, in alphabetical order, 1,019 cases.

ONLY THOSE WITHOUT MEANS ARE ASSISTED

The foregoing summary shows that twenty-nine per cent of the applicants for assistance were rejected, most of them being refused for the reason that they were financially able to employ attorneys. Very few apply to our office expecting something to which they are not entitled. They are sent to us from other public offices without sufficient knowledge of the limitations of the office. In most cases there is no complaint made when they are told that the office is only for those who are without means of securing the services of attorneys in private practice. We have been very careful to examine the facts of each case in order to prevent the rendition of services to those who are not entitled to them.

BETTER FEELING CREATED AMONG THE POOR TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT

There has been a feeling among a great many people that the courts were only for the wealthy and that they were beyond the reach of the poor. Such a feeling on the part of a large number of the population was not conducive to the best of citizenship. The public defender's office has allayed this feeling in Los Angeles. The courts are now open to all citizens on an equal basis and the poorest now have an equal chance to obtain justice although the claim be against the most powerful corporation.

Many thousands of poor persons in Los Angeles have found that the government takes an interest in their welfare and wants to see justice done them. It is difficult to overestimate the value of the benefits obtained by creating the proper spirit among the poor and improving their attitude towards the government.

The public defender's office of Los Angeles was the pioneer in its field, having been established in January, 1914. It was the first office to be created whereby a public officer was provided to act as attorney for the poor in both civil and criminal matters. During the four years of its existence the office has attracted a great deal of attention throughout the United States. Favorable comments made by the judges and other officials of Los Angeles have resulted in the creation of similar offices in nineteen other cities.—Walton J. Wood, Public Defender, Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 14, 1917.

PAROLE—PROBATION

Functions of a Probation Department in a Municipal Court.¹—A study of the probation systems in other courts of the United States shows that the Municipal Court of Philadelphia is unique in that the work of the probation officers begins when suit is first brought, instead of after the court hearing. Historically, probation as we know it today developed from the system of parole of prisoners which began in the middle of the nineteenth century. Parole

¹Material prepared by the Department of Research and Statistics, Municipal Court of Philadelphia.

was devised as an alternative for imprisonment for minor offenders, or for individuals who after a term in prison, had shown their capacity for regaining their position in the community. Probation is in most of the courts today, simply an extension of this principle of parole to a larger group. The probation system of the Municipal Court had quite a different start and grew out of the practice of the Department of Public Health and Charities which, acting for the Quarter Sessions Court, maintained a clerk to receive application by deserted wives for free warrants. So many applications were made that the force was enlarged, and gradually the clerks went beyond mechanical questioning and gave attention to individual wants. Thus, a woman obviously in need of immediate relief would be referred to a social agency for help pending the court proceedings.

From the beginning of the Domestic Relations Division of the Municipal Court, the first function of the probation department was to determine not only whether the warrant should be free, but whether the warrant should be issued in any particular case. At first the statement of the woman was taken without verification and the decision made on this basis. This was soon found to be inadequate, and visits were made to verify such factors as the husband's work, wages, the address and the fact of the marriage. This extended knowledge of the individual situation soon made it apparent that in many cases the need was not so much the court hearing and suing for support as it was a chance for both parties to tell their grievance. This led to the plan of hearing the man's side of the case before bringing him into court and the ultimate prevention of all court hearings except where the voluntary system failed. The result of this development so far as the court is concerned is, first, that the judge has a shorter list of cases and can devote a correspondingly longer time to each. Then for the cases that reach him he has in addition to the brief statements made before the bar a more or less complete record of the essential conditions of the situation. This means that the case can be settled with a single court hearing far more frequently than was possible before.

Principles of the Domestic Relations Probation Extended.

As each new division of the court has been organized, the essential principles of probation worked out in the Domestic Relations Division have been applied with the modifications necessitated by the peculiar needs of each tribunal. In the women's department of the Criminal Division, the officers practically act as assistants to the district attorney in preparing paternity cases for prosecution. In these cases the procedure is as nearly like that in the Domestic Relations Court as is compatible with the still persisting requirements of the criminal process. In other kinds of criminal cases, probation officers are frequently requested to investigate the stories given by men who have been convicted, in order that the judge may determine the sentence in accordance with individual needs. The further application to criminal cases of the principle of investigation will be made as the movement for the public defender gains headway.

In the Juvenile and Misdemeanants' Divisions for boys and girls, the probation officers are the first ones with whom the young offenders come in contact and no case ever comes up for a court hearing without special preparation.

It must be remembered that while probation officers are thus granted an unusual amount of discretion, particularly in keeping the case out of court,

they can do this only by persuasion. The individual who refuses the service of the probation officer, and insists immediately upon court action, is, of course, given his constitutional right. It is interesting that among nearly 8,000 cases in which court action was taken in 1916 only 91 cases were opened outside of probation department. Furthermore, any agreement or reconciliation must be formally allowed by the court before the case is considered adjusted. Sometimes the facts are presented in summary form without the original parties being present. In other cases, the individuals concerned may appear before the judge who explains the situation.

Much of the time and effort of the probation officers is devoted to the securing of relief for unfavorable economic and physical conditions which are found to underlie most of the personal and family problems brought into court. The important feature of this work is not that service is rendered in addition to the regular court work, but that securing medical care, changed housing conditions, mental examinations, and so forth, may be the means by which the necessity for court action is obviated. This larger social service thus forms an integral part of probation. The recognition of this fact has resulted in the development of more and more complete provision within the court itself for such services as medical examinations and treatment, psychological tests, and the securing of positions. The distinct effort has also been made to have the various workers familiar with the resources of the city for all forms of social service. The Reference Book of Social Agencies, prepared by Miss Ella Harris, is in constant use in every section of the probation department.

Another feature of the wider socialization of the court has been the discovery that it is necessary to teach other city departments and private organizations, as well as the general public the objects and uses of the court. This has been accomplished in large measure by public addresses given by judges and other court officers. A course of lectures on the probation work was given during 1916 by the Pennsylvania Training School for Social Service. There have also been many articles published by court workers. One of the best ways of securing intelligent co-operation with other parts of the community has been through the holding of frequent conferences with other agencies on various aspects of the court work.

To summarize, probation in the Municipal Court means:

1. The investigations of every case to ascertain as far as possible the facts of both sides in order to determine whether or not court action is necessary.
2. The adjustment without court action on the basis of this investigation in as many cases as possible.
3. The preparation of the cases for presentation for the judge.
4. The carrying out of the judge's orders, and the continuous supervision of the case for the first hearing.
5. Very seldom does it mean punishment in itself, or the diminution of a more severe sentence.—Jane Deeter Rippin, Chief Probation Officer, Municipal Court, Philadelphia.

A Municipal Detention House.—A disused school house, located at Twelfth and Wood streets, Philadelphia, has been fitted up as a detention house for women and girls.

Upon the ground floor is a small court room and administrative offices. Each field worker has her own desk, and there is ample provision for privacy in her conferences with the girls and women. On the second story is a dormitory and several private rooms for the care of women brought in from the